

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MELISSA FULTON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Melissa Fulton to recognize her substantial contributions to our community through her remarkable career in the Lakeport Chamber of Commerce and her extensive service to Lake County.

Melissa was born and raised in Harvey, Illinois, but moved to Lakeport California with her husband John in 1989. That same year she joined the Lakeport Chamber of Commerce where she became an active volunteer. After a search committee recognized her impeccable leadership and ability, she was recruited to fulfill the positions of Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer for the Lakeport Chamber of Commerce. She has been serving in these positions for 27 years with only a brief break to serve as Advertising Director of the Lake County Record-Bee and the Clear Lake Observer-American newspapers.

Melissa holds a passion for selfless service as demonstrated through her leadership in her career and in multiple community groups. This includes serving on the Board of Directors of the Lake County Economic Development Corporation, the Lake County Rodeo Association, and the Lakeport Main Street Association. Additionally, Melissa was a past President of the Lakeport Rotary club, where she facilitated fundraising efforts to support the painting and restoration of the Library Park Gazebo.

Her invaluable contributions and achievements to the community include transforming the Lakeport Chamber of Commerce to the Lake County Chamber of Commerce, creating the annual Destination publication, designing and constructing the annual Lake County exhibits for the California State fair, and establishing the certified tourism Ambassador program in Lake County. Melissa has been described by colleagues and community members as a mentor, an instigator, and above all a Lake County treasure who will leave a legacy for herself as a passionate and determined advocate for Lake County.

Madam Speaker, Melissa Fulton's achievements will leave a tremendous impact in Lake County for generations to come. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

IN HONOR OF PRETRIAL, PROBATION AND PAROLE WEEK 2021

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Nation's community supervision professionals and the many vital

roles they play in their work with justice-involved adults and juveniles. They identify opportunities and services to help individuals successfully contribute to society, while, at the same time, holding them accountable for their actions. They remain always mindful of their role in ensuring public safety.

In honor of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2021, we salute all of those who have chosen this important career. In the District of Columbia, we especially thank the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia and the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia for their service. These agencies are models of excellence in community supervision. Their work reflects the theme of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week, "Restoring Trust, Creating Hope."

As was the case last year, community supervision officers have demonstrated great courage and resolve in continuing their work during the coronavirus pandemic. They have found innovative ways to remain connected with the individuals they supervise and to continue guiding them in the interest of safety.

Community supervision agencies are valuable partners of government agencies, nonprofits, neighborhood-based groups and all who strive to make our nation safer and stronger. We extend our gratitude to them and ask the House of Representatives to honor them and recognize their many achievements as we proclaim July 18–24, 2021, as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week in Washington, D.C.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2021*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 215, YEA on Roll Call No. 216, and NAY on Roll Call 217.

HONORING ARMENIAN AMBASSADOR VARUZHAN NERSESYAN FOR HIS WORK STRENGTHENING THE U.S.-ARMENIA RELATIONSHIP

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2021*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor His Excellency Varuzhan Nersesyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the United States. After nearly three years of dedicated service, Ambassador Nersesyan and his family will soon embark across the Atlantic to

serve as Armenia's Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I would like to thank the Ambassador for his partnership and willingness to work together to strengthen the U.S.-Armenia relationship and share issues of importance relating to Armenia and the greater South Caucasus region.

Over the past three decades, Armenia has faced three wars initiated by its neighbor, Azerbaijan, dual blockades by Turkey and Azerbaijan, the lingering impact of the devastating 1988 earthquake, energy shortages, an influx of Armenian refugees forcibly displaced from Azerbaijan, and periods of mass migration. Armenia has endured these challenges through the will of its people, who have strongly committed to democracy and the rule of law in contrast to many countries in the region. As a result, Armenia's last two parliamentary elections were free, fair, transparent, and accessible—a true testament to Armenia's democratic principles.

The Ambassador has been a strong proponent of this democratic push, helping to enhance vibrant and strong U.S.-Armenia relations by helping to bring the legislative branches of our countries closer together. My colleagues in Congress and I have warmly welcomed our parliamentarian counterparts from Armenia in the U.S. Capitol. U.S. Congressional delegations have also been welcomed in Armenia, including a visit to Armenia involving Members of the House Democracy Partnership in 2019. We must continue this work of advancing our countries' mutual interests. The United States must continue rewarding innovative democracies and inclusive economies like Armenia. This is especially true in a region that is dominated by authoritarian regimes which have a tendency of perpetuating aggressions and attempting to stoke instability.

Ambassador Nersesyan also exemplified the great personal strength and resolve shown of all Armenians as the world witnessed the heartbreaking 44-day war in Artsakh perpetrated by Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Turkish-backed mercenaries in the fall of 2020. Armenians in Artsakh have shown the international community that their right to self-determination in their centuries-old homeland must be taken seriously and their voices have been amplified by exemplary Armenian diplomats like the Ambassador. I witnessed his tireless dedication to advocating on their behalf for their right to self-determination and know his many efforts have not gone unheard in the United States Congress or in the current Administration.

Ambassador Nersesyan's mission in Washington, D.C. is not his first experience in the United States. His deep knowledge of our country and commitment to diplomacy was evident when he served as Armenia's Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Armenia from 2008 and 2012. During that time, he also matriculated and graduated from my alma mater—the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University—where he earned a Global Master of Arts.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.